

Arizona Wildfire Forum Held on Lessons Learned in 2011 and Community Protection Going Forward

More than 20 Southeastern Arizona fire officials joined 30 federal and state forestry officials and insurance representatives in an “Arizona Wildfire Forum” in Sierra Vista, AZ on December 16th, 2011. The forum briefed area officials on the 2011 wildfires in Arizona and provided education on community protection going forward.



AZ Wildfire Forum Attendees

Fire department and district officials from Benson, Elfrida, Elgin, Fry, Nogalas, Northwest, Mt. Lemmon, Rio Rico, Palominas, Sierra Vista, Sonita, Tri City, Tubac and officials from Cochise and Yavapai counties attended the forum.

“These wildfire forums provide all concerned with lessons learned from Arizona’s wildfires in 2011, the largest in the state’s history,” said Arizona State Forester, Scott Hunt. “Fortunately, there were forest treatment techniques, fire suppression advances, and community protection strategies that benefited some communities.”

Co-hosting the forum with State Forester Hunt and the Arizona State Forestry Division was the Arizona Insurance Council, the Arizona Forest Health Council, US Forest Service and the Western Governors’ Association. Farmers Insurance sponsored the wildfire educational event. Materials were also provided from the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) and the International Code Council (ICC).



Scott Hunt AZ State Forester

“The property and casualty insurance industry in Arizona encourages local communities and citizens to educate themselves on wildfire protection strategies,” said Ron Williams, executive director of the Arizona Insurance Council (AIC). “With the trend of higher intensity and larger wildfires, every community should take action steps to reduce future property losses.”

Topics addressed at the Sierra Vista, Arizona Wildfire Forum included:

- Forest treatments in Arizona that reduced 2011 wildfire fuels and intensity
- Importance and benefits of community wildfire protection plans (CWPP)
- Potential state and federal grants available for CWPP revisions or initiation
- Firewise Community USA Program
- Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Codes
- Arizona Fire Chief’s Association “Ready, Set & Go!” Program